

# 2023

# Friends' Calendar

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[S]o dear Friends, keep close to the Light and feel the Power of God, and abide in it ... so that you may come more and more to feel the leadings and guidings of the Lord in his Light, and that you wait at all times to know his will and counsel, and to feel his leadings therein: that so none may run before the Lord his Leader, but feel Him go before, and to lead in the Way you should walk in.

Elizabeth Hendricks, 1672

He, your Teacher, will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will see your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Isaiah 30:21



Quotations for the 2023 Friends Calendar are taken from Scripture (often the New American Standard Bible) and from the writings of Friends (Quakers) or those writings Friends might do well to consider. Scripture quotations can be found at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). We hope these citations will lead to further reflection and study, with consideration of spiritual and historic context.

Moon phases are set to the time in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Cover: Elizabeth Hendricks, "An Epistle to Friends in England, to be Read in their Assemblies in the Fear of the Lord," 1672. In eds. Mary Garman, et al, *Hidden in Plain Sight: Quaker Women's Writings*. Wallingford, PA: Pendle Hill Publications, 1996, p. 471-472.

First Month: Ben Richmond, *Signs of Salvation: new life where grace and truth meet*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 2005, p. 226.

Second Month: George Fox (1624-1691), in *Early Prophetic Openings of George Fox*. Tract Association of Friends: Philadelphia, 1999, p. 31.

Third Month: Michael Birkel, *Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press and Earlham Press, 2005, p. 71.

Fourth Month: Grace Chamber (1676-1762), in ed. Gil Skidmore, *Strength in Weakness: Writings by Eighteenth-Century Quaker Women..* Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2003, p. 27.

Fifth Month: Virginia Schurman (1941-2020), "The Beatitudes." Tract Association of Friends, n.d.

Sixth Month: Howard Thurman (1900-1981), "A Prayer for Peace," in *The Mood of Christmas and of Other Celebrations*. Friends United Press: Richmond, IN, 1973, p. 101. Originally published in *The Inward Journey*, 1961.

Seventh Month: Stephen Crisp (1628-1692), "An Epistle from Stephen Crisp to Friends in the North," in *The Friends' Library: Journals, doctrinal treatises, and other writings of members of the Religious Society of Friends*, Vol. 14, p. 233.

Eighth Month: Lloyd Lee Wilson, *Wrestling with Our Faith Tradition. Collected Public Witness, 1995-2004*. Quaker Press: Philadelphia, 2005, p. 7.

Ninth Month: William Penn (1644-1718), "To all suffering Friends in Holland or Germany, particularly in Fredericstadt and in or near Dantzic." In eds. William Evans and Thomas Evans, *The Friends' Library: Journals, doctrinal treatises, and other writings of members of the Religious Society of Friends*. Philadelphia, 1841. Vol. v, p. 117.

Tenth Month: Deborah Bell (1689-1738), "A Short Journal of the Labours and Travels in the work of the ministry, of that faithful servant of Christ, Deborah Bell." In *The Friends' Library: Journals, doctrinal treatises, and other writings of members of the Religious Society of Friends*. Eds. William Evans and Thomas Evans. Philadelphia, 1841. Vol. v, p. 21.

Eleventh Month: Jonathan Dymond (1796-1828), "The Rights of Self Defence." Philadelphia: Tract Association of Friends, 1888.

Twelfth Month: Max I. Reich (1867-1945), "Congregational Silence," Philadelphia: Tract Association of Friends, n.d.

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## First Month

TWELFTH MONTH

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Faith requires us to "know the voice of the Good Shepherd."

The ability to discern the voice of the Beloved from all others is learned over time, in the company of those who likewise are learning to walk in faith. It is learned by acquaintance with word of God in scripture and by acquaintance with the word of God within the heart.

Ben Richmond, 2005

SECOND MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<p>My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.</p> <p>John 10:26</p>			

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Second Month

FIRST MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
 29 30 31

And I was to direct people to the Spirit that gave forth the Scriptures, by which they might be led into all Truth, and so up to Christ and God, as they had been who gave them forth.

THIRD MONTH

1 2 3 4  
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
 26 27 28 29 30 31

George Fox, 1624-1691

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	From childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15			

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Third Month

### SECOND MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28

The same Spirit that inspired the biblical writers surrounds us in our day-to-day lives. We can listen to the words of those around us as though the Spirit were striving to break through ... into our awareness.... Where is God at work in what you see happening around you?

Michael Birkel, 2005

### FOURTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
Then Elisha prayed and said, "Lord, please, open his eyes so that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. II Kings 6:17			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 ○	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 ◊	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 ●	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 ◐	29	30	31	

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Fourth Month

### THIRD MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31

The neglect of that which brings inward peace occasions the greatest of losses.

Grace Chamber, 1715

### FIFTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
<p>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free of hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">James 3:17-18</p>						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Fifth Month

FOURTH MONTH 1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30

From this overwhelming experience of the abundance of God's love, we are led to be loving to others. We know that this loving may be very costly to us.... Jesus understands this all too well.

Virginia Schurman, 1941-2020

SIXTH MONTH  
1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<p>This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 15:12-13</p>		

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Sixth Month

### FIFTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

While we wait in Thy presence, search our spirits and grant to our minds the guidance and wisdom that will teach us the way to take, without which there can be no peace and no confidence anywhere.

### SEVENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31

Howard Thurman, 1961

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will advise you with My eye upon you. Psalm 32:8				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Seventh Month

### SIXTH MONTH

1 2 3  
 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
 18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
 25 26 27 28 29 30

Those who forsake the Fountain grow dry and barren,  
 unfruitful to God or to their own good.

### EIGHTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5  
 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
 27 28 29 30 31

Stephen Crisp, circa 1685

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
<p>I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 15: 5-6a</p>						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Eighth Month

SEVENTH MONTH

1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31

Discernment is nothing more or less than the ability to hear what it is that Christ is saying to us at this moment in time, in this very place.

NINTH MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Lloyd Lee Wilson, 2005

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 2:7		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	As [Jesus] said these things, He would call out, "The one who has ears to hear, let him hear." Luke 8:8	

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Ninth Month

### EIGHTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31

Therefore, hold up your heads, and be yet comforted, little flock!  
Your shepherd will not fly, though the wolf come. Know your  
Shepherd, and dwell with him, and he will bring you into sweet and  
green pastures, in the midst of your enemies....[E]ye the Lord, without  
whose providence a sparrow falls not to the ground.

William Penn, 1673

### TENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees. John 10:12  You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil. Psalm 23:5a					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Tenth Month

NINTH MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

I am humbly bowed in spirit before the Lord, whose love and goodness never fail those that trust in him and obey his call, for he is attending such with his living presence, in their goings out and their comings in.

Deborah Bell, ca. 1720

ELEVENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<p>The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in From this time and forever.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 121:7-8</p>			



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| _____ * <u>A Quaker View of Christian Revelation</u> , John<br>Curtis                  | _____ * <u>Our Divine Lord</u> , Max Reich                                    |
| _____ * <u>A Question of Authority</u> , Nancy Goodwin                                 | _____ * <u>Prayer</u> , Virginia Schurman                                     |
| _____ * <u>A True Testimony Concerning My Faith in Christ</u> ,<br>John Banks          | _____ <u>Reclaiming the Bible in Friends Tradition</u> , Virginia<br>Schurman |
| _____ <u>Christ in Quakerism</u> , Maurice Creasey                                     | _____ * <u>Sealed Epistle of George Fox</u>                                   |
| _____ * <u>Congregational Silence</u> , Max Reich                                      | _____ * <u>The Holy Spirit</u> , Max Reich                                    |
| _____ * <u>Five Tests for Discerning a True Leading</u> , Hugh<br>Barbour              | _____ * <u>The Inspired Ministry</u> , from the writings of<br>Thomas Gould   |
| _____ * <u>Forgiveness</u> , Phoebe Hall   | _____ <u>The Transformation of Joseph Hoag</u> [from his<br>Journal]          |
| _____ George Fox's <u>Letter to the Governor of Barbadoes</u>                          | _____ * <u>To Friends in the Ministry</u> , George Fox                        |
| _____ <u>God's Garden</u> , Virginia Schurman  | _____ * <u>True Spiritual Liberty</u> , William Penn                          |
| _____ * <u>In Prison, Yet Free</u> , Eva Hermann (also in German)                      | _____ * <u>Welcome to Friends Meeting for Worship</u>                         |
| _____ * <u>In the Will of God Stand</u> , Kenneth Morse                                |   |
| _____ <u>Living in the Spirit</u> , Roger Dreisbach-Williams                           |   |
| _____ <u>Maranatha!</u> , Charles Subbock  |   |
| _____ <u>On Coming to Love One's Enemies</u> , Virginia<br>Schurman                    |   |

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| _____ * <u>A Key</u> , William Penn  | _____ * <u>The Gathered Meeting</u> , Thomas Kelly |
| _____ * <u>Concerning the Order and Government of the<br/>church</u> , Isaac Penington | _____ <u>Turning to Christ</u> , Jnana Hodson      |
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\_\_\_\_\_ Love in Action, Virginia Schurman

\_\_\_\_\_ Traveling in the Ministry: Let Your Light Shine, Marian Baker & Phyllis Makhino

\_\_\_\_\_ No Cross, No Crown, William Penn, Selections, Sarah Miller, editor

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# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Eleventh Month

### TENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

The exercise of Christian forbearance towards violent men is not tantamount to an invitation of outrage. Cowardice is one thing; this forbearance is another. The man of true forbearance is of all men the least cowardly. It requires courage in a greater degree and of a higher order to practice it when life is threatened, than to draw a sword or fire a pistol.

Jonathan Dymond, ca. 1825

### TWELFTH MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed.  Matthew 27: 13-14			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.  Luke 23:34	

# 2023 Friends' Calendar

## Twelfth Month

### ELEVENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30

A reverential silence is in itself Worship. It is the prostration of the human in the presence of the Divine... Awe and wonder lie at the very foundation of true worship. We are in the presence of the infinite, the unbounded, the unfathomable.

Max I. Reich, 1867-1945

### FIRST MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	SIXTH DAY	SEVENTH DAY
But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him. Habakkuk 2:20					1	2
Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near, because the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests. Zephaniah 1:7						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



# 2023

## FIRST MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

## SECOND MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28

## THIRD MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31

## FOURTH MONTH

1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30

## FIFTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

## SIXTH MONTH

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30

## SEVENTH MONTH

1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31

## EIGHTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31

## NINTH MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

## TENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

## ELEVENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30

## TWELFTH MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

# 2024

## FIRST MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

## SECOND MONTH

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29

## THIRD MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

## FOURTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30

## FIFTH MONTH

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31

## SIXTH MONTH

1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30

## SEVENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31

## EIGHTH MONTH

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## NINTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30

## TENTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31

## ELEVENTH MONTH

1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

## TWELFTH MONTH

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

## *Names of the Months and of the Days of the Week*

From the practice of the Jews before the Babylonian Captivity, it seems probable that at first the months were simply numbered, not named. This is a clear and rational procedure and is found in the early Scriptures, so the Society of Friends felt called upon to use the Scriptural names of the days of the week and of the months instead of those names which are in common use and which are, for the most part, derived from the names of pagan gods.

Other religions (Christians, Jews and Muslims) as well as Friends have similar views on this subject. Richard Baxter, the English non-conformist of the Seventeenth Century, said: "It were to be wished that the custom were changed of using the names of week-days which idolators honored their idols with – as Saturday, Monday, and the rest. So for the months."

Friends did not object to the names "September," "October," "November," and "December," but objected to their use since the months they name are no longer the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months.

January was named for Janus, an old Roman god.

February was named from the *Februa*, the expiatory ceremonies which the Romans held in honor of their dead in this month.

March was named for the Roman god Mars, who, at the time of the naming of the month, was primarily a god of agriculture, the symbol of spring-time and youth. It was only after the artificial identification of Roman gods with Greek gods that Mars became the god of war, the counterpart of Ares.

April is derived from the same root as the Latin *aperire*, which means "to open". Thus April is the month of opening buds and flowers.

May is of uncertain origin, perhaps from the Roman goddess Maia, or from *maiores* (the older).

June may have been named for the Roman goddess Juno, or from *iuniores* (the younger).

July, originally *Quinctilis*, was renamed for Julius Caesar, who was born in that month.

August, originally *Sextilis*, was chosen by the Roman emperor Augustus to be renamed in his honor because of the many fortunate events in his life that had occurred in that month.

The practice of naming the days of the week is derived from Egyptian astronomy. It did not become firmly established in our civilization until the time of Theodosius at the end of the Fourth Century C.E. Curiously enough, it was the Roman custom of lettering the successive days of a *nundinum* (a period of eight days, in addition to the current day) which gave rise to the modern custom in some Christian groups whereby the dominical letter is determined. The days of the week are lettered from A to G, just as the Romans lettered the days of a *nundinum* from A to H.

According to the Egyptian astronomers the sun and moon were planets and the order of the planets in terms of their distance from the earth was as follows: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, sun, Venus, Mercury, moon. One hour of each day, beginning with the first, was consecrated to each of these "planets". The whole day was consecrated to the planet to which belonged the first hour. If the first day be consecrated to the sun, to which belongs the first hour, then the first hour of the next day will belong to the moon and the day will be the moon's day (Monday) and so on. After the cycle has been completed, the first hour of the eighth day will belong to the sun again, and it will again be the sun's day (Sunday).

Our names of the days of the week are derived from Anglo-Saxon names and these in turn are named for the Saxon gods who approximate to the Roman gods for whom the days were named. The Roman names have survived, to an extent, in Spanish, French, Italian and other languages derived from or greatly influenced by Latin.

The day of Mars was called the day of Tiw, the god of war (Tuesday).

The day of Mercury was called the day of Woden, chief of the gods, whose attributes corresponded more nearly to those of the Roman Mercury than to those of Jupiter, chief of the Roman gods (Wednesday).

The day of Jupiter, who was believed to hurl thunderbolts, was called the day of Thor, the god of thunder (Thursday).

The day of Venus was called the day of Frigg, queen of the gods, who was sometimes confused or identified with Freyia the goddess of love (Friday).

The seventh day was still called the day of Saturn, the sower of seed (Saturday).

No doubt most Christians unthinkingly use these names, or else they use them merely in conformity to the general custom. Although general custom can, in the long run, determine the correctness of language and vocabulary, it cannot pass upon right and wrong. And so, some Christians still feel that the use of these names for months and days, derived as they are from non-Christian sources, is inconsistent with the tenets of the Christian faith.